



Date: June 12, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *TMM*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Homeless Services Update: 2020 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Results**

---

Homelessness impacts every sector of our community and continues to be the subject of study, evaluation, and planning since before the inaugural Point-in-Time Homeless Count (Count) in 2003. This memorandum provides the results of the 2020 Count and a comparative analysis with the 2019 Count.

The 2020 Count marks the first time the Count occurred in consecutive years allowing for the year-to-year comprehensive count of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach. The Count remains one of the most valuable tools that allows the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and local communities the ability to assess homelessness at national and local levels. The Count allows trend analyses on the scope of homelessness regionally and across the nation. The Count is a community-wide effort that provides an opportunity for residents and local businesses to actively contribute and learn about people who are experiencing homelessness, and gain an understanding of the resources available to address homelessness in Long Beach.

### **Homeless Count Methodology**

The 2020 Count was conducted in the early hours of January 23, 2020, with the help of approximately 200 volunteers consisting of community-based providers, members of the public, and City staff. Teams led by experienced guides fanned out on foot and by car, conducting surveys of people experiencing homelessness throughout Long Beach. The number of volunteers participating is critical to ensuring that the map segments, which cover the entire City, have comprehensive coverage.

Prior to the count, all volunteers were required to attend an orientation session that provided training for the paper survey, the electronic count application, and engagement techniques during the survey process. Training is a priority to ensure consistent data collection throughout all map areas, to ensure safety practices in the field, and to provide support to trained and experienced map leads. Teams deployed to the field are provided with a 20-question survey that asks demographic information, subpopulation information, length and circumstances of homeless experience, cause of homelessness, previous engagement in services, and determines if the count is an actual or visual count. No identifying information is collected during the survey process; rather, key demographic information is used to create a unique identifier. This unique identifier is used to avoid duplicating survey respondents that may have been surveyed in other locations during the count process, such as shelters, service sites, and food programs. All responses collected are based on a self-report by survey respondents.

The Homeless Services Division (HSD) continues to improve the count data collection methodology, to provide more insights to the population. In the 2019 Count, the Homeless Services Division included the Count Type data element that informed HSD staff if the person was interviewed, or if the participant refused to be surveyed and the count teams determined that the person is experiencing homelessness. In the 2020 Count, HSD staff are able to compare the Count Type responses.

The Count process is designed to ensure comprehensive coverage of the 52-square miles of Long Beach. In the days leading up to the Count, the Outreach Team conducts a specialized count that focuses on areas that are hard to reach and have safety concerns for the volunteers. The Outreach Team also canvasses the city to validate the accuracy of Hot Spot Guides. The guides illustrate well-known areas of congregation. The validation of the well-known areas of congregation allowed for strategic team design. On the day of the Count, the teams were organized in groups of 3 or 4 people, with an experienced map lead consisting of Outreach Team, first responder (Police or Fire), and agency partners. Through many years of conducting counts, the HSD team learned it is more effective to have small groups to engage with the person more effectively, and without causing fear or concerns to the person experiencing homelessness. Moreover, the design of the teams is intentional to include key roles that have specific expertise and training working in the field. This is critical to engaging with the unsheltered population.

In addition, for the 2020 Count, the HSD piloted an electronic mobile count application to gather survey responses, including real time map tracking of the teams that were deployed. This allows for a streamlined count process and can eliminate paper surveying in the future. The mobile application proved successful, as most volunteers appreciated its ease of use, and it allowed the HSD to conduct quality checks between two methods. Another key data element added by using the electronic application was the ability to geo-locate the position of all surveys. This made administering and monitoring the count much easier and streamlined. The location of all surveys also helps inform the outreach efforts year-round.

### **Summary of Key Findings**

The 2020 Count determined that there were 2,034 persons experiencing homelessness in Long Beach on the morning of January 23, 2020, and were comprised of:

- **1,582 unsheltered persons** (living on streets, in cars, or other locations not meant for human habitation); and,
- **452 sheltered persons** (in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs).

The 2020 Count results demonstrate a 7 percent increase in the total number of persons experiencing homelessness compared to 2019. This increase is attributed to the unsheltered population, which increased by 24 percent. Long Beach also experienced an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness refusing to be surveyed. This year 532 people refused to be surveyed compared to 395 last year. Upon refusal to participate in the survey, teams were trained to count by visual observation. Despite this increase in the street count, there was a 42 percent reduction in Veterans experiencing homelessness. This reflects the continuous effort coordinating services with the Veterans Affairs and partner agencies to house Veterans who are experiencing homelessness.



## 2020 Homeless Count Results

June 12, 2020

Page 3

The table below provides comparative data on the number of persons experiencing homelessness, including both sheltered and unsheltered, from 2013 to 2020 Counts.



Attachment A provides a summary report of the 2020 HUD Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) count results as reported to HUD, including 2017 and 2019 HUD HDX count submissions for comparison. Attachment B provides a 2020 Long Beach point-in-time county statistic summary.

### **Street Count: Unsheltered and Other Service Sites**

The street count involves two components: (1) canvassing of the 47 map segments covering the 52-square miles of Long Beach; and (2) canvassing Other Service Sites (OSS). OSS are non-residential locations where persons experiencing homelessness may be located on the day of the Count. OSS locations typically include supportive service agencies, including the coordinated entry hubs at the Multi-Service Center and Mental Health America's The Village, churches and food banks, medical clinics, and the transit mall.

The street map count reflects a 13 percent increase of individuals residing on the streets. This increase, along with a broader dispersion of the population across the city, may contribute to a heightened awareness of street homelessness in our community. The chart below demonstrates the shifts:

Street Count Year	2013	2015	2017	2019	2020
Total Street Maps Count	601	771	801	911	1,031
Council Districts 1-3	64%	52%	51%	52%	49%
Council Districts 4-6	12%	20%	19%	17%	16%
Council Districts 7-9	23%	28%	30%	31%	35%

Population shifts between 2013 and 2020 may be attributed to ongoing regional encampment clean-up and maintenance efforts along the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Flood Control, a responsibility of the County of Los Angeles. Other potential factors affecting dispersion include the restoration of wetlands, green space expansion projects, and revitalization of the

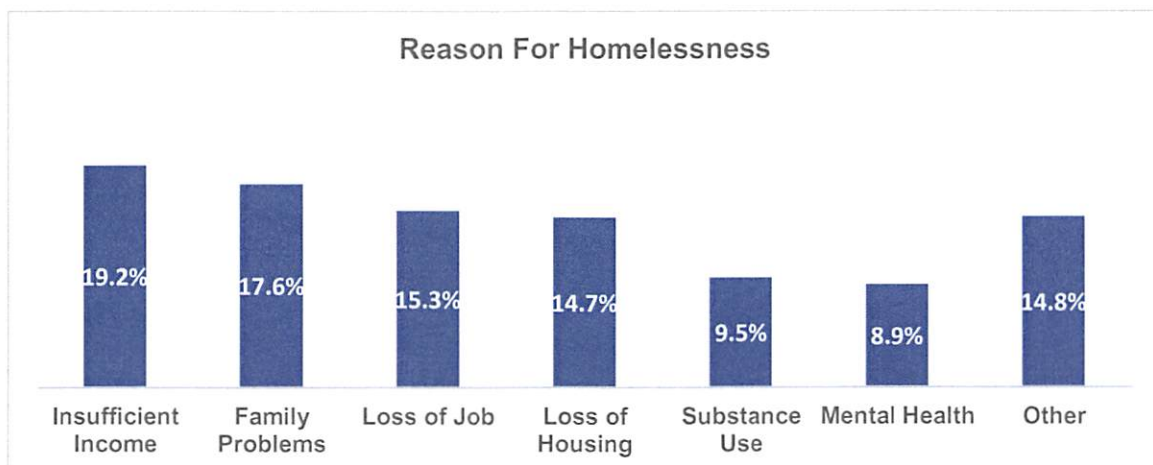
Downtown Civic Center. Overall, the Count results demonstrate a stable dispersion of homelessness across map segments citywide. The attached maps show comparative shifts from 2019 to 2020 (Attachments C and D).

### **Sheltered Count Results**

The 2020 Count reflects a 27 percent decrease in the sheltered population compared to 2019. This reduction can be attributed to limited availability of crisis shelter funds, which historically has provided supports to households experiencing homelessness in a motel voucher setting (i.e., General Relief Motel Voucher Program). The HSD anticipates increases in the sheltered population in future Counts due to the anticipated opening of the Year-Round Shelter in the summer of 2020.

### **Supplemental Information**

The HSD is interested in understanding the causes of homelessness in Long Beach. Therefore, a new question was added to the Count Survey asking what caused the participant to lose their housing. The participant was able to choose all that applied to them.



All responses are self-reported and if the individual had multiple episodes of homelessness then only the most recent episode was discussed. The most common reason given was Insufficient Income (19 percent) followed closely by Family Problems (18 percent). Loss of Job and Loss of Housing all came in around 15 percent, Substance Use and Mental Health were least common answers, 10 and 9 percent, respectively. These responses provide further insights to understanding homelessness and allow for the City to focus resources on prevention, such as eviction counseling, emergency rental assistance, and diversion.

### **Progress Continues**

The 2020 Count reflects an increase in homelessness in our community. This may be due to the gap between increasing housing costs and stagnant incomes. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the nation is currently facing one of the most severe affordable housing crises in history, where rents have continued to rise and lower-income people have experienced slow or stagnant wage growth. The HSD continues to be nimble in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing challenges.

The HSD is the lead for the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC) and is recognized nationally as a model for a well-coordinated system of care. All new housing projects utilize the Coordinated Entry System (CES), which prioritizes households based on service need and eligibility for housing project. This ensures households with high service needs are matched to available wrap around services that support long-term success in housing. Additional practices that the CoC utilizes to support at-risk or households experiencing homelessness include:

- Universal delivery of evidence-based best practices to individuals and families regardless of their housing status.
- Integrating all key partners into the CES that provides a “no wrong door” approach to accessing services.
- Coordinated housing application and utilization processes linked to supportive services and financial assistance programming.
- An interdepartmental coordination that utilizes multiple department’s expertise in addressing the impacts of homelessness in a systematic way.

The HSD, along with several CoC partners, work collaboratively to ensure the system of care continues to expand its capacity and improve service delivery. HUD is shifting its priority from funding supportive and transitional housing to a more narrowed focus on permanent and rapid rehousing. Accordingly, the CoC is working with community, regional, and State partners to enhance the Long Beach system of care, and to identify and leverage funding streams that will help provide needed services no longer covered by HUD.

The HSD successfully negotiated a direct allocation of Measure H funding to Long Beach to support prevention and rapid rehousing efforts for single adults, as well as funding support for the Coordinated Entry System and Outreach Response. The Housing Authority supports these efforts with a direct allocation of approximately \$865,000 for the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP), also funded through Measure H. Additionally, the Housing Choice Voucher Program provides close to \$1.3 million in HUD funding through set-aside vouchers to house 105 households who are experiencing homelessness annually. This funding support has been critical to supporting local efforts to minimize entry into the homeless services system, and shortening the length of homelessness for those who have already been displaced.

The State of California also issued funding through three programs that will provide significant funding to support services for households who are at-risk of, or are currently experiencing, homelessness: the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH) in the amount of \$692,858, and the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) in the amount of \$6.9 million. The City received CESH, and HHAP funding as a designated CoC entity, with additional funding from HHAP for being one of the 11 designated Large Cities in California.

The funding allows for the acquisition of year-round shelter that is slated to open this summer, navigation center, housing stabilization services, such as Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing services, a safe parking



## 2020 Homeless Count Results

June 12, 2020

Page 6

program, and a jobs program for individuals experiencing homelessness. These additional resources will further enhance the existing safety net in Long Beach to ensure homeless episodes are a rare and brief experience.

The City also received funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of California issued the COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding in the amount of \$1.1 million in response to the COVID-19 outreach and to protect the health and safety of the people experiencing homelessness. On March 27, 2020 the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) passed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The CARES Act made available \$4 billion in Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funds. HUD immediately allocate first-round funding of \$1 billion based on the FY 20 ESG formula, Long Beach allocation is in the amount \$1.8 million. The funding is to support with preparing, respond, and/or prevent coronavirus, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and street outreach.

The City has also been a critical partner in the development of several permanent housing developments focused on serving households experiencing homelessness including:

Project Name	Population Served	Number of Units	Anticipated Opening
Spark at Midtown	Families	95	Anticipated 2020
Vistas Del Pueblo	Families	48	Anticipated 2020
469 West Apartments	Singles and Families	56	Anticipated 2020

These projects will account for an infusion of 199 units of permanent housing for at-risk and households experiencing homelessness in Long Beach.

The City has come a long way in increasing its capacity and resources to address homelessness on a large scale. It continues to excel at achieving positive outcomes, and demonstrates at a national level its successes with service and housing delivery. The City will continue to seek and implement innovative and creative programming to stay at the forefront of best practices across the nation until all individuals and families who seek housing receive that housing and have the supports available to them to remain housed.

### **Summary**

The 2020 Count reflects an increase in homelessness in Long Beach. The results also support a more general dispersion across the city. Increasing housing costs, low vacancy rates, and stagnant wages/mainstream benefits demonstrate that Long Beach's comprehensive system of care is needed to ensure people have the support and resources needed to prevent homelessness and to facilitate access to services to quickly move back into a permanent home. Long Beach's commitment to continued innovation and systematic improvements have been critical to the people who experience homelessness and the community at large.

**2020 Homeless Count Results**

**June 12, 2020**

**Page 7**

**If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (562) 570-4016.**

**KC:TC:MMD**

**ATTACHMENTS A: HOMELESS DATA EXCHANGE (HDX)**

**B: HOMELESS COUNT FACT SHEET**

**C: MAP POPULATION DISPERSION 2019**

**D: MAP POPULATION DISPERSION 2020**

**CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
DOUGLAS HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
REBECCA GUZMAN GARNER, ACTING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
TERESA CHANDLER, INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
AJAY KOLLURI, ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER  
DEPARTMENT HEADS**



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION  
BIENNIAL HOMELESS COUNT COMPARISON  
HOMELESSNESS DATA EXCHANGE (HDX)

**ATTACHMENT A**

	2017	2019	*2020	2019 & 2020 Comparison
<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>1208</b>	<b>1275</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Sheltered</b>				
Emergency Shelter	354	321	249	
Transitional Housing	301	298	203	
<b>Total</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>-27%</b>
<b>Total Unsheltered &amp; Sheltered</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Chronic Homelessness - Adults</b>				
Unsheltered	539	555	585	
Sheltered	147	77	80	
<b>Total</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Chronic Homelessness Household - Adults</b>				
Individuals	592	542	538	
Adult in Families	94	90	127	
<b>Total</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Veterans</b>				
Unsheltered	110	91	76	-16%
Sheltered	208	213	99	-54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>-42%</b>
<b>Homeless Subpopulations</b>				
<b>Unsheltered</b>				
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	451	383	351	
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	315	278	444	
Adults with HIV/AIDS	19	27	31	
Victims of Domestic Violence	141	147	217	
<b>Sheltered</b>				
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	135	177	148	
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	71	112	116	
Adults with HIV/AIDS	37	27	27	
Victims of Domestic Violence	105	116	124	

\*City conduct annual count.

Homeless Subpopulations - self-reported, includes duplicate counts.



	2017	2019	*2020	2019 %
Adults	1,722	1,774	1,869	92%
Children	141	120	165	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Age**

Under Age 18	141	120	165	8%
18 to 24	89	67	65	3%
25 to 34	307	305	354	17%
35 to 44	341	382	423	21%
45 to 54	451	429	452	22%
55 to 61	319	362	302	15%
Over age 62	215	230	273	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Gender - Adults**

Female	481	517	506	27%
Male	1,227	1,252	1,346	72%
Transgender	12	3	5	0%
Gender Non-Conforming	2	2	12	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Ethnicity - Adults**

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,311	1,232	1,276	68%
Hispanic/Latino	411	542	593	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Race - Adults**

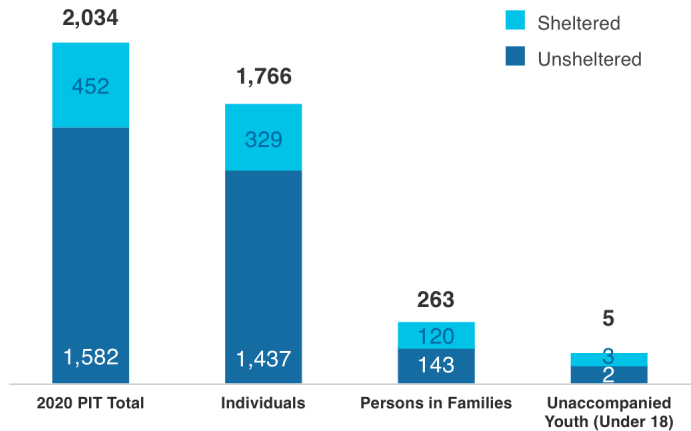
American Indian or Alaska Native	53	26	36	2%
Asian or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	93	89	118	6%
Black or African-American	544	614	709	38%
White	961	999	950	51%
Multiple Races or Other	71	46	56	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>100%</b>

# 2020 Long Beach Point-In-Time Count

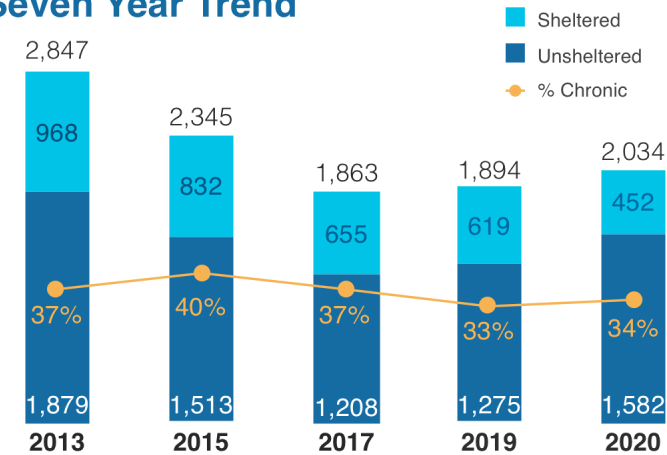
## Statistic Summary

In January 23, 2020, the City of Long Beach conducted its annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT) that accounted for 2,034 people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach. As the lead agency for the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC), the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for conducting and reporting the findings of the PIT Count in the annual Continuum of Care funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These findings help communities and the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide, inform local strategic planning and capacity building and advocacy campaigns to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience in Long Beach.

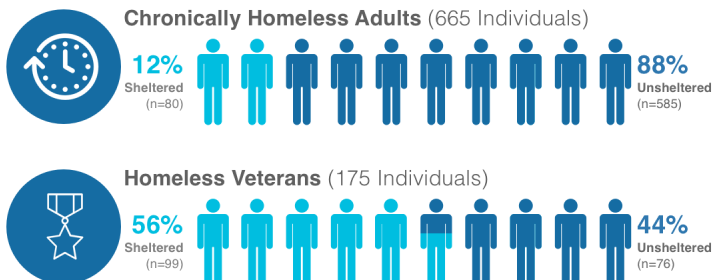
### 2020 PIT Results



### Seven Year Trend

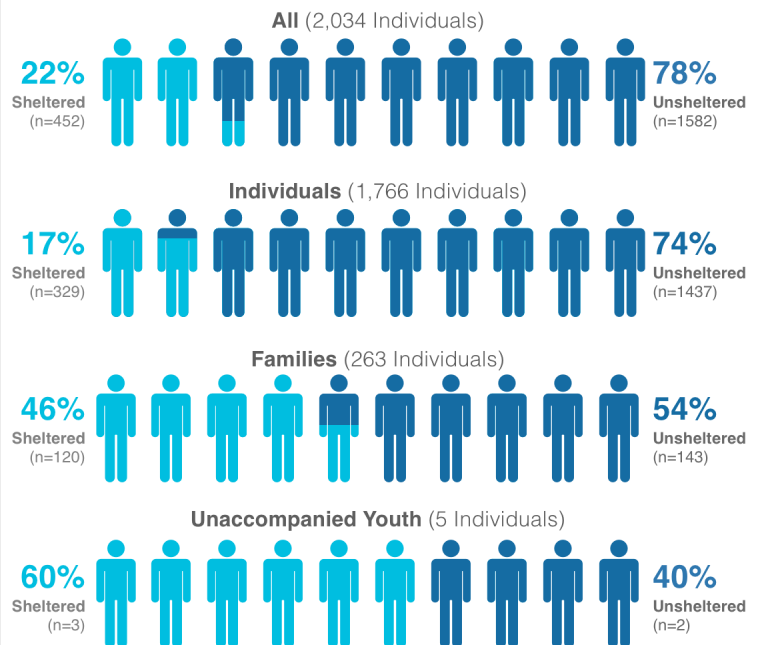


### Subpopulations



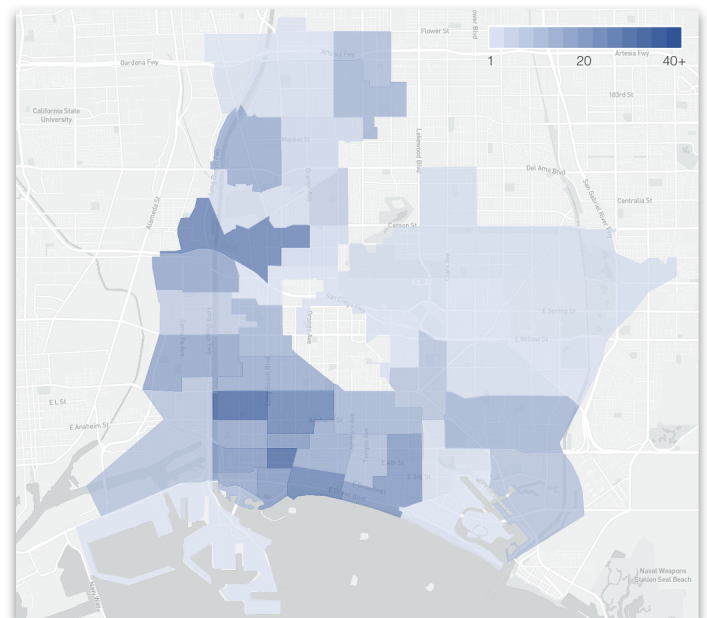
**Note:** Data collected during the PIT is solely based on self-report.

### 2020 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population

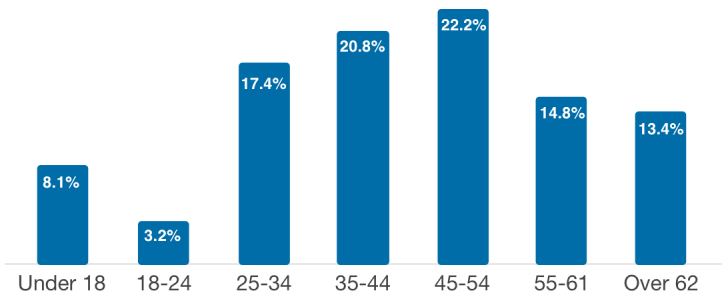


### Persons Experiencing Homelessness

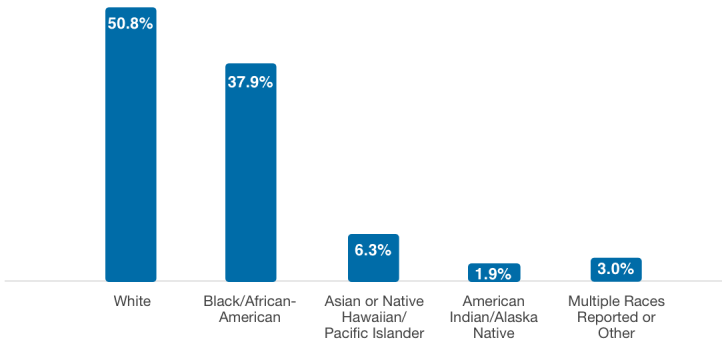
Long Beach, January 2020



## Age



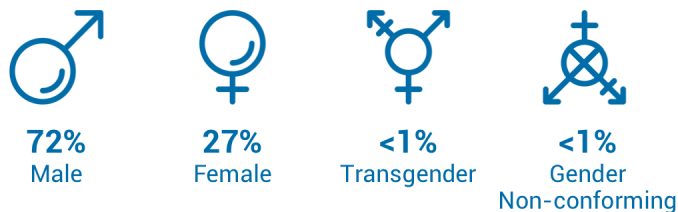
## Race



## Ethnicity



## Gender



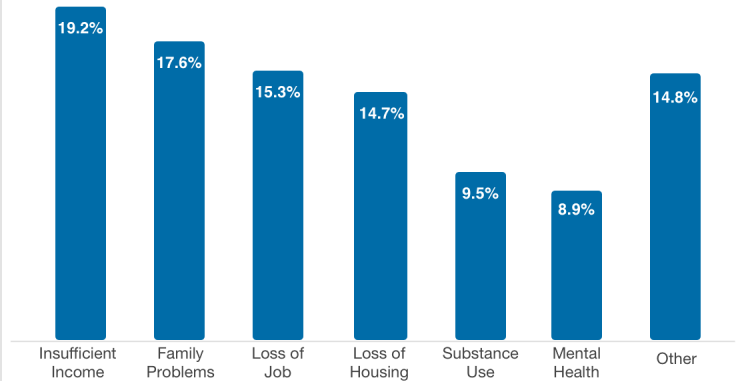
## First Homelessness Episode



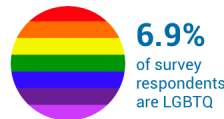
## Reasons for Homelessness

The purpose of this question was to understand the social conditions that respondents believed caused them to lose their housing. If the respondent has experienced multiple homeless episodes, this is relevant to the most recent episode.

**Note:** Individuals may self-report multiple reasons for homelessness



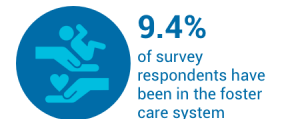
## LGBTQ+



## Students



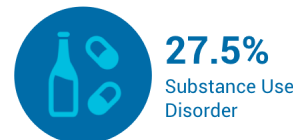
## Foster Care



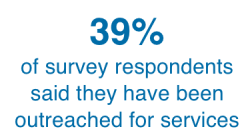
## Disabling Conditions

The survey included questions related to substance use and mental and physical health conditions. The purpose was to understand the challenges and needs across homeless populations. It is important to note that these data are self-reported.

**Note:** Individuals may self-report multiple conditions, figures do not add to 100%.



## Outreach Services



## Subpopulation Definitions

### Chronically Homeless

An individual or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who (1) has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or (2) has experienced at least 4 separate episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, where the combined episodes total a length of 12 months or more.

### Veterans

Persons who have served active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

### Families

A household with at least one (1) adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one (1) child member (persons under 18).

### Unaccompanied Youth

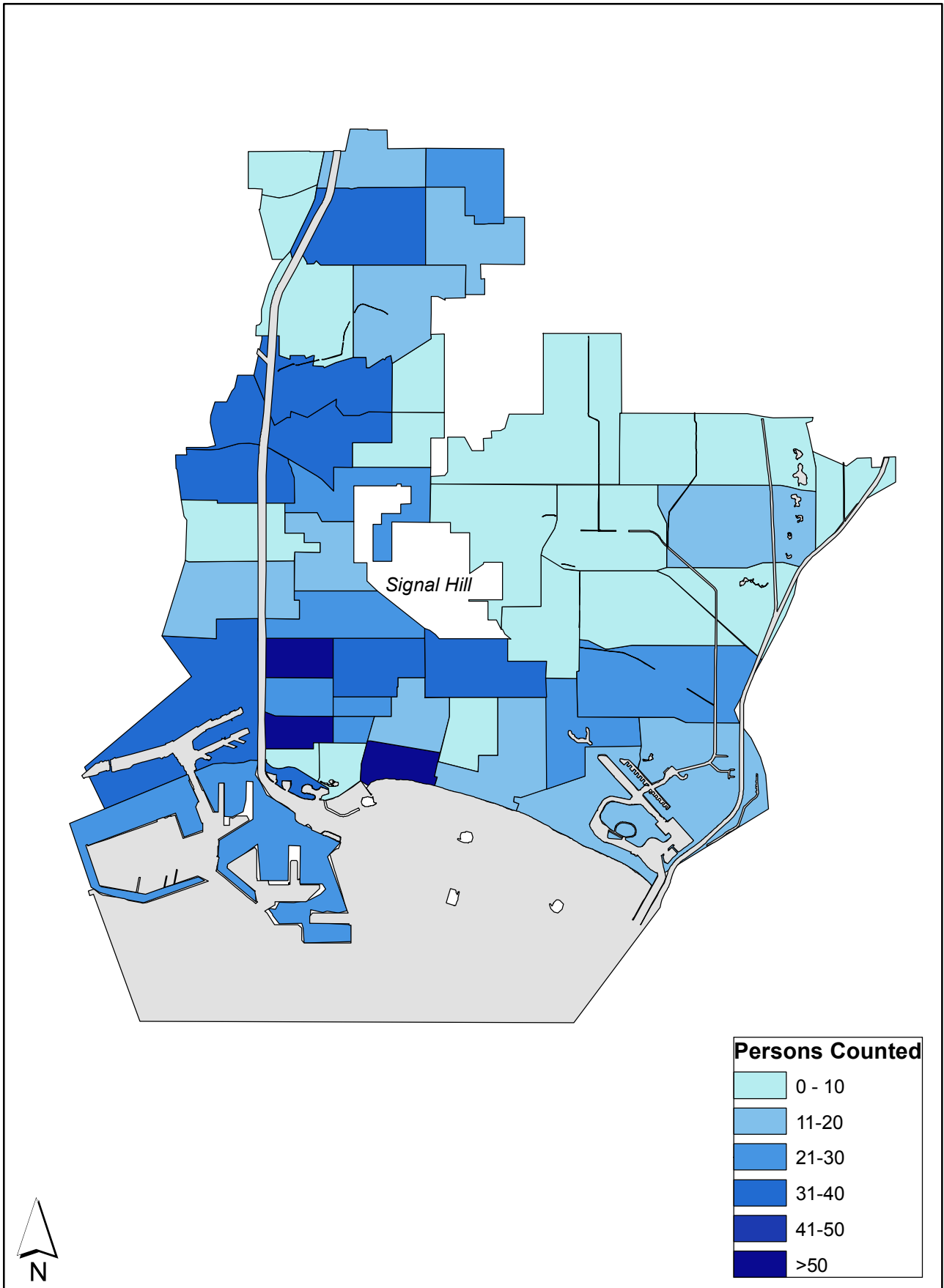
Individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are homeless and living without a parent or legal guardian.

For more information about the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services and efforts to address homelessness in Long Beach, please visit <http://www.longbeach.gov/health>



**Persons Experiencing Homelessness  
Long Beach, CA  
2019**

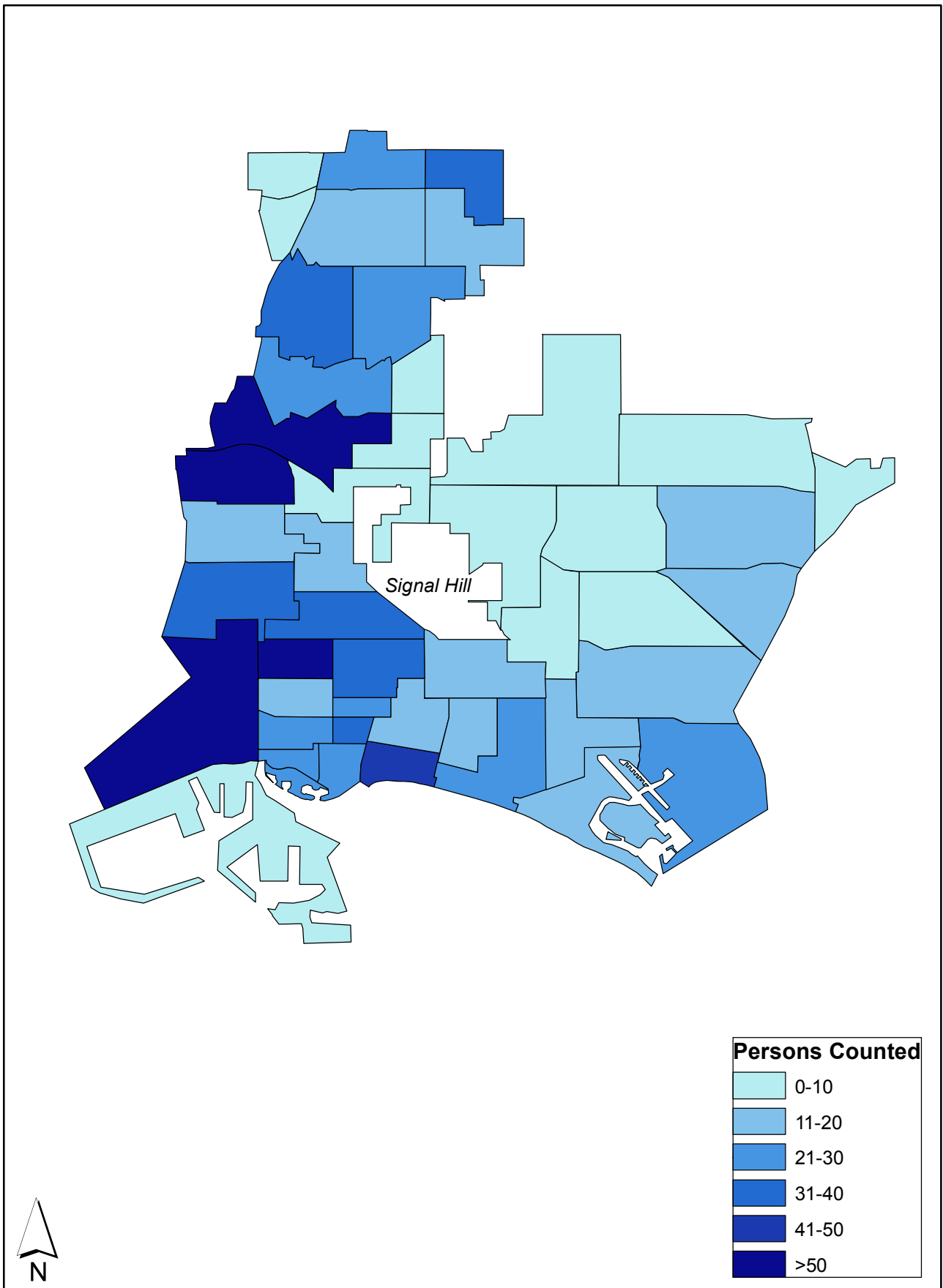
**ATTACHMENT C**



**Total persons: 911**

**Persons Experiencing Homelessness  
Long Beach, CA  
2020**

**ATTACHMENT D**



**Total persons counted: 1031**